and vegetables production and price beheviour etc. Hence there is no standard for determining the fixed per capita consumption of foodgrains.

The stocks with the Public agencies are built up by the Government under price support operation i.e. procurement of wheat and paddy at Minimum Support Price and levy rice from the traders' millers. The procurement of foodgrains (rice & wheat) per year on an average range from 15—20% of the production. The public stocks varies from year to year on various reasons such as production, procurement, off-take, for PDS RPDS and local availability and open market prices etc.

The Central Issue Price at which the Government supplies the foodgrains from the Public Stocks for PDS/RPDS etc. are uniform throughout the country and are less than the open market prices. The offtake of wheat under PDS/RPDS declined during 1993-94 due to increases in production of foodgrains from 179.48 mHion MTs in the crop year 1992-93 (July-—June) to 182.12 million MTs in 1993-94 as against 168.38 million MTs produced in 1991-92. The increase in the production from 1992-93 onwards had stabilised the local availability.

PDS—Public distribution System RPDS—-Revamped Public Distribution System.

Hemavathy Cooperative Sugar Factory, Karnataka

5870. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to expand Hemavathy Cooperative Sugar Factory, Hassan in Karnataka State from 1200 tonnes to 2500 tonnes a year is pending clearance from Central Government; if so, the time since when it is pending;

(b) the reasons for which it has not been cleared; and

(c) the time by when it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) A proposal of M/s. Hemavathy Sahakara Sakkare Karkhane Ltd., Srinivasapura, Distt. Hassan (Karnataka) for effecting substantial expansion in capacity from 1250 tonnes per day to 2500 tonnes per day was received on 3.12.1993 through the Department of Industrial Development, Ministry of Industry.

The Central Government is at present reviewing the licensing policy for sugar industry. A decision on the pending applications for grant of letters of intent for setting up of new sugar mills/expansions of the existing units would be taken thereafter.

Licenses for setting up of Sugar Factories in Karnataka

5871. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have taken a decision to issue lincenses for setting up of nine sugar factories in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken;

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the time since when these projects are pending clearance by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF 'FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) 69 proposals have been received through the Department of Industrial Development, Ministry of Industry for the establishment of new sugar factories in the State of Karnataka, upto 31.1.95. Of these, 60 proposals have been considered by the Screening Committee of the Ministry of Food and the Licensing Committee of the Ministry of Industry. Thereafter, 5 letters of intent